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Editorial.....	Page 2.
Advertisement.....	Page 2.
REPORT ON ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS CONFERENCE, by Lionel Beer.....	Page 3.
YOU AND ME, by Brinsley Le Poer Trench.....	Pages 3-5.
PERIPHERAL UFOLOGY: No:4 -- TIDYING UP THE RECORD, by J.B.Delair.....	Pages 5-8.
MORE NEWS FROM YOUR FIELD AGENTS' CO-ORDINATOR, by J.Sears.....	Pages 8-9.
SOME INVESTIGATED UFO ACTIVITY OVER NORTHERN BRITAIN DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1975, by Jenny Randles.....	Pages 9-12.
Important Notice.....	Page 12.
BOOK NEWS AND BOOK REVIEWS, by Lionel Beer, Brinsley Le Poer Trench, and J.B.Delair.....	Pages 13-14.
Advertisements.....	Pages 15-16.

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The editor regrets that, for economic and other reasons, it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter or item of correspondence received by CONTACT (UK) personnel, a fact that in no way diminishes, however, our gratitude to all those who trouble to communicate with us.

EDITORIAL.

As most readers doubtless already know, the foreword, introduction, or editorial section of a publication is the last item to be written before the whole is sent away to the printers. Having just read through the remainder of this issue, your editor would like to apologise for the occasional hic-coughing or jumping of certain individual letters in a number of words. It would seem that, unbeknown to him, CONTACT (UK)'s magnificent prehistoric typewriter developed that little trait, with results like those just described, although it is felt that blemishes of the kind, while undesirable, can at least be regarded as mechanical rather than factual and, as such, are thus partially acceptable. Anyway, apologies to all those who object to these results or whose eyesight is impaired by them.

Those who read page one in these issues will notice that, in this specimen, the post of Public Relations Officer has recently become vacant. Walter Oldershaw, who previously occupied this post, has had to leave us, thus a replacement is now being sought. Any readers who feel they would like to undertake this interesting but quite busy post are cordially invited to write to the General Secretary, outlining their qualifications, in order that their applications can be added to those which will be voted upon at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting early in December (see page 12). Ideally, applicants should reside within say 100 miles of Oxford, in order that they can, if elected to the post, attend ordinary committee meetings at least occasionally. The post automatically promotes the relevant individual onto the national committee of CONTACT (UK), whereby attendance at a minimum of two committee meetings per annum would be required. Applications should be in the Secretary's hands not later than November 14th coming.

We should like to take this opportunity of thanking Walter Oldershaw for his past efforts on behalf of CONTACT (UK), and to wish him every success in the future.

From time to time we have, both in this journal and in the "UFO Register", stressed the importance of increased and more regular co-operation and liaison with other ufo study groups and organizations. It is with pleasure, therefore, that we can report that liaison with NUFON (see pages 9-12) is now well established, and that negotiations with BUFORA are now under way to improve the exchange of sighting data and to rationalize to some extent the activities of our respective organizations. It should be emphasized, however, that no merging of these groups is currently envisaged, just the elimination of unnecessary duplicated effort currently existing between all concerned. In the long run such streamlining can only be to the benefit of all organizations and ufologists in Britain today. Your committee will keep you informed of developments in this area in due course.

The Editor.

A MUST FOR ALL READERS OF CONTACT'S PUBLICATIONS.



Eclipse, by C. J. Spicer.

Measuring 36" x 18", this picture, which is a new Fine Art Reproduction, shows the artist's impression of an eclipse viewed from another planet. Spicer's work has been acclaimed by astronaut Richard Gordon. Write GLACTIC ART, 96 Hood Street, Northampton, England. Price £2.50p.

REPORT ON ANCIENT ASTRONAUT'S CONFERENCE.

by

Lionel Beer.

It is debatable whether "astro-archaeology" has much connection with modern ufology and modern ufo research, but one must recognise that interest in the former topic is currently quite widespread and increasing. At least fifty books devoted to "spacemen in prehistory" themes are presently available, having been authored by such writers as Jacques Bergier, Charles Berlitz, Robert Charroux, Erich von Daniken, Raymond Drake, Peter Kolosimo, Andrew Tomas, and Brinsley Le Poer Trench, to name but a few.

It was inevitable that a society would be founded to pursue the theory that the Earth had been visited in prehistoric times. Thus, on September 14th., 1973, Gene Phillips, a private lawyer of Park Ridge, Illinois, USA, founded the Ancient Astronaut Society, membership of which is now claimed to be about 1,000. A statement issued by the society said: "The AAS. hopes to explore the possibility that a highly developed civilization existed on earth thousands of years ago". Professional archaeologists will probably remain cynical.

The AAS. organized its second World Conference in Zurich on 29-31 May, 1975, and the twenty or so speakers included authors Josef Blumrich, Max Flindt, Andrew Tomas, Jacques Bergier, and Erich von Daniken. BUFORA member, Raymond Drake, of Sunderland, and author of several "Gods and Spacemen" books, represented Britain.

Raymond's rather flowery style of writing, "In those glorious days our Earth was young and Nature shone in newness, Celestials winged down, etc.", coupled with an occasional lack of continuity, were probably factors responsible for his earlier up-hill struggle to get his works published at all. However, such literary style in no way diminishes his erudition and he has probably researched far more deeply than many of his contemporaries. His books are now being translated and published in several European countries. So it was not for nothing that Raymond's 50-minute talk at the Zurich Conference, on May 29th., was greeted with a standing ovation. British ufologists can, therefore, justly be proud of such a delegate, and all will no doubt join the writer in wishing Raymond every future success in his still continuing investigations into a fascinating past.

YOU AND ME

by

Brinsley Le Poer Trench.

In the early fifties, and even during the sixties, the theory that ufos came from extra-terrestrial sources was the favourite one. It is true that even in those two decades there was a minority view among ufologists that ufos emanated from extra-dimensional realms. In those years I was in constant touch with the late Dr Meade Layne, who was then probably the leading exponent of the extra-dimensional concept. He headed an organization called Borderland Science Research Associates, and, among other things, considered that ufos came from an "etheric" plane --- a supra-physical dimension.

In more recent years, the extra-terrestrial origin for ufos seems gradually to be "going out of the window" in many ufological circles. I might add that I do not think it will necessarily fall to the ground and be totally discarded, for, in my opinion, this is just a trend, and the time will come when it will be recognized that both the ET theory and the ED theory are both valid.

I have always accepted both these theories, and have recently embraced (some say "gone overboard") the even more controversial hollow earth theory, along with the idea that many ufos seen in our skies originate from sources below our own feet. I developed these ideas in my book, "Secret of the Ages".

It is my opinion that all three points of origin for ufos are actually correct, and in order to correct the impression that may inadvertently have been given in the above mentioned book that I no longer subscribe to the Et and Ed hypotheses, I want now to take a cool, hard look at them. Maybe, after reading the following, you will see what I mean.

Firstly, let us consider the much maligned (in some quarters) extra-terrestrial theory. There are about 100,000 million stars in our own galaxy --- the Milky Way --- with a high probability that a large percentage of them possess planetary systems. In addition, astronomers have noted billions of other galaxies in the universe, or in at least that portion of it visible through our telescopes. Consequently, it would seem like the mad caprice of a Creator to form all those trillions of worlds without ensuring that at least some of them sustained intelligent life. It is far more reasonable to suppose that the Creator made all these habitations for various kinds of life to live and evolve upon them.

Now, it has often been asserted that beings from other planets could not travel to ours because of the immense distances and difficulties involved. For example, the number of light years such beings would take to reach us. Remember that one light year equals 5,880,000 million Earth miles.

We have also been told that Einstein said that no one could travel in excess of the speed of light, which is approximately 186,000 miles per second. In actual fact, Einstein never said any such thing. The late Ivan T. Sanderson, who was a well-known researcher on the ufo problem, possessed a tape proving this. It is possible to travel faster than the speed of light, although at that velocity any object (including you and I) would be converted into energy.

In my submission, we are a hybrid race here on Earth. In my book "The Sky People" I discussed how some of the gods of old (the Elohim) manufactured the human race. At first they created just animal-man. Then, after some of the galactic race (the Angels or Beings of Light) inter-bred with animal-men, cross-man resulted. Other writers, including the late Otto Binder, have since taken up this theme. In that same book I also pointed out the two entirely separate creation stories recorded in Genesis (chapters one and two). These are not separate stories about the same event, but accounts of two different events. Of these, the first was the creation of Galactic man (Angels) made in the "image and likeness" of God. "Male and Female created He them". Whereas in the second story, the creation of animal-man, there is no mention at all of both males and female being made. Only Adam. It was a long time afterwards that Eve was created by a genetic operation. Nonetheless, there are references to a pre-Eve companion to or visitor to Adam called Lillith --- a being from some other creation. The creation of animal-man, however, was downgraded to guard and keep the Garden of Eden, and for a long time, so we are led to believe, Adam was given the company only of animals (and Lillith).

The Galactic race created first were capable of flying anywhere in the universe almost simultaneously. The speed of light made, and makes, no difference to them at all. They are, so available records inform us, also able to operate in extra-dimensional universes too.

Elsewhere (CUFO, vol.3, no:3), I have discussed the hollow earth theory, and I have also postulated that the gods said traditionally to have ruled the lost civilization of Atlantis came originally from outer space. In "The Sky People", att-

ention was drawn to the tradition that the elohim, or at least some of the elohim, did not agree with their fellow gods over the creation of animal-man, i.e. of Adam. Had the reputed associations of Adam and the earlier Lillith revealed certain serious defects in Adam's genetic, psychological, of physical makeup, something displeasing to the elohim, or something at least discouraging?

In "The Sky People" I placed the Garden of Eden on Mars and, at the time of the "Fall", not only was animal-man returned to the place whence he had originally been taken --- planet Earth --- but his creators were expelled with him. They became the creators, rulers, and ultimately the gods of Atlantis. We are told by various fragmentary sources of great antiquity that the Atlanteans were much addicted to constructing tunnels. From this we may reasonably surmise that they dwelt both above and below the surface of this planet. This is not at all fanciful if we lend any credence to those traditions and legends describing the extended underground journeys of certain pre-Columbian and Nordic, and even some classical Greek and Roman, deities and culture-heroes. These shadowy beings of a remote past frequently descended into or had connections with a mysterious underworld and with beings possessed of all kinds of strange and so-called "magical" powers alleged to have resided there. As world traditions collectively link these entities with lost civilizations and continents such as Atlantis, we may infer that there is probably at least some truth underlying all these so startlingly similar strands of "evidence".

It is my present belief that, after Atlantis sank beneath the ocean, those inhabitants of the underworld just mentioned, who contrived to survive the great catastrophe attendant upon the loss of Atlantis, continued to dwell inside the Earth in tunnels and caverns, complete with their ancient technology. That technology included space vehicles which we call today the ufos.

Not improbably, many if not most of the ufos observed by us over the last few decades are from inside the Earth, since it would seem that their point of origin is right here under our feet. However, as I have suggested, some ufos probably come from extra-terrestrial and extra-dimensional areas. This is why I believe that the ufos seen in our skies probably have at least three separate points of origin. Only further research can establish whether this is truly so or not.

In subsequent articles I hope to explore other aspects related to the theme just discussed, some of them of a highly startling nature.

PERIPHERAL UFOLOGY: No:4.

TIDYING UP THE RECORD,

by

J.B.Delair.

In some earlier issues of this magazine (i; ii; iii) a number of controversial topics frequently linked with the ufo phenomenon proper, but nonetheless not definitely associated with it, were discussed in some detail. This article continues the series and deals with the mysterious and ghastly spontaneous incineration of human beings.

In 1967, Brad Steiger and Joan Writenour published a best selling book titled "Flying Saucers are Hostile". In the second chapter of that book, these writers discussed three instances of spontaneous combustion of human beings within a very narrow time frame, and suggested that the destruction of the three unfortunate individuals was an act perpetrated by ufos for unknown purposes. It was on these

6.

and other similarly hostile occurrences that Steiger and Writenour based their conclusions that at least some ufos were hostile towards mankind. If this could be proved then indeed we are confronted by a serious situation.

The phenomenon of spontaneous combustion in human beings, however, is not only of great antiquity, but also well known in the medical world, where fully acceptable reasons for the actual incineration of human beings in this way have been known for quite some time. There is certainly no reason to invoke ufos as an agency, as the following cases, cited merely to substantiate this assertion, amply illustrate.

Although the late Charles Fort mentioned several cases of spontaneously burnt human beings, principally in elderly women, one of the earliest responsible investigators of the phenomenon was Pierre-Aime Lair, who recorded many of these bizarre events, in a paper called "On the Spontaneous Combustion of the Human Body, produced by the Long and Immoderate Use of Spirituous Liquors". The original version of this paper was published in the Journal de Physique, year 8, but an English translation of it appeared in vol.6 of the Philosophical Magazine (pp.132-146) in 1800, and it is from this latter version that several of the following cases have been taken.

Jacobaeus, in the Trans.Copenhagen, tells us that, in 1692, a woman of the poorer classes, who for 3 years had imbibed only spirituous liquids, was one night consumed internally by fire so that, when she was discovered the next day, only her skull and extreme joints of her fingers remained. All the rest of her body had been reduced to ashes, although none of her clothes had even been scorched.

In the Annual Register for 1763, Bianchini relates how the Countess Cornelia Bandi of Cesena, aged 62 years and of good health, retired to bed one evening, the morning after which she was found reduced to ashes, except for her arms and legs and the posterior portion of her cranium. Three fingers were discovered in the same physical condition as a piece of coal. Once again, however, the bed and bed-clothes on which her remains lay were in unscathed condition.

The same source for 1773 (op.cit., p.78): we read that Mr Wilmer, a surgeon, examined the charred remains of 50-years old Mary Clues, who, for a long time beforehand, had been much addicted to spirits and was known to have frequently become intoxicated. Her body had been found on March 2nd that year entirely consumed from within, except for one leg and a thigh. Her cranium was wholly calcined although some woodwork panelling on an adjacent chimney-breast was but slightly scorched. The same report mentions other similar known cases from Southampton and Coventry.

On April 9th., 1744, Grace Pitt, a resident of Ipswich and about 60 years of age, and known to be a great drinker of spirits, was found lying on the floor of her house charred like a log. Her body resembled coal covered with white ashes, although, yet again, none of her clothes or the floor on which she was found showed any signs of injury or scorching through heat.

Vicq d'Azyr in the Encyclopedie Methodique (see under the heading "Pathologic Anatomy of Man") and Henry Bohaufer, in Le Nouveau Phosphore Enflamme, were two other early writers on this melancholy theme. Another was Le Cat, who recorded a case at Rheims, where a Madame Millet, who got drunk on spirits everyday, was found totally incinerated from within on February 20th., 1725. Only a portion of her skull, some vertebrae, and some bones of her extremities remained. In this instance, however, some floorboards under her body had been charred too, although a kneading trough and a powdering-trough next to her body had escaped damage entirely. Her poor husband, Jean Millet, was driven mad by this terrible event and

spent the remainder of his days in a hospital.

Le Cat also described the case of 80-years old Madame de Boifeon, who habitually drank excessive quantities of spirituous liquor, and how, when she was one day (February 22nd., 1749) sitting in her chair at her home at Plerguer, near Dol, France, she suddenly burst into flames. Her maid servant rushed to her aid, gave the alarm and, with others who attempted to save the unfortunate woman, threw water over her. The water, however, only made the fire burn more fiercely, and it did not in fact become extinguished until the entire body had been consumed. In this case only the soft parts of the body were burnt up, as an exceedingly blackened skeleton remained seated in the chair, the wood of which, incidentally, was only slightly singed. Madame de Boifeon's clothes were, curiously enough, only discoloured by the fire.

A similar case is said to have occurred previously at Dinan, also in France, while others are reported as having taken place at various other French localities --- including Paris --- and in Italy. It is perhaps significant that several of the French cases occurred at or were centred upon Caen, in Normandy. One of the tragedys at Caen involved Mademoiselle Thuars, who was over 60-years of age, while another instance, reported in the Journal de Medicine (vol.lix, p.440) took place at Aix, in Provence, during February 1779. A common factor in all these cases is extraordinary absence of serious (and often of any) burning to the victims' clothes or to nearby furniture.

Lest female readers having proceeded this far are becoming alarmed, let it be recorded that several instance of spontaneous combustion are known in human males. Several of these took place during the 30-years war, and also in some of the Napoleonic wars, among officers and soldiers engaged in drinking contests. The three cases cited by Steiger and Writenour (op.cit.) were all males --- one was a helmsman, another a truck driver, and the third the occupant of a Volkswagon car. All met their deaths on April 7th., 1938, and all had been "fried from the inside out". It is well known that some sailors and truck-drivers are addicted to consuming larger than normal quantities of spirits, thus the helmsman and the trucker may, in these instances, have been among the heavy drinking brigade, to which the previously mentioned women almost without exception also belonged.

A connection between heavy drinking and internal spontaneous combustion in human beings is not always easily or invariably established, however, for there is no reliable evidence that a woman who lived in Massachusetts, and who, on March 16th.1802, was discovered as a pile of ashes, had been a particularly heavy drinker. In her case, however, all her clothes had been consumed by the fire as well. Details of this terrible event may be found in vol.14 of the Philosophical Magazine (1802, p.96). Nor was 78-years old Young Sik Kim, who, in December 1956, was internally consumed by blue flames in Honolulu, Hawaii, known as a heavy drinker. The same may be said of Mrs Katherine Chaires who died from identical causes in the living room of her apartment at 210 Liberty Street, Oneida, in New York state, during December 1965.

Most of the above cases involve incinerations occurring while the victims are alone, but at least one instance is known of it happening in a crowded ballroom, at Chalmersford, in Essex, to be exact, where, on Sept.20th, 1938, a woman suddenly burst into flames. Despite attempts to extinguish the fire, that seemed to be fed by her own flesh, the blue flames entirely consumed her within minutes and she became a heap of ashes before the horrified gaze of stupefied onlookers. The husband and children of a woman boating with them on the Norfolk Broads, was suddenly enveloped by terrible blue flames while she sat in the same boat with them on July 30th, 1937. Within minutes she was a mound of ashes, although neither her

8.

family nor the boat in which they were at the time was harmed.

Eric Norman, who, in his book "Weird Unsolved Mysteries" (Tandem Books, 1969, pp.104ff.), records some of these more recent incinerations, also refers to investigations conducted into the phenomenon by Dr.D.J.Gee, a lecturer in forensic medicine at the University of Leeds. Dr Gee's findings were published in the Journal of Medicine, Science, and Law, (vol.5, January 1965, pp.37-8), while a second study of the phenomenon had previously been carried out by Dr.Gavin Thurston in 1961. As it is not the purpose of this article to provide an explanation of these horrendous events, the two reports just mentioned are given here for the benefit of those desirous of investigating the subject more deeply. It may be remarked, however, that the phenomenon is explicable in terms of modern medicine and the known composition of fats present in the average human body.

In the majority of the known cases there does appear to be a definite connection between spontaneous combustion on the one hand and large quantities of spirituous liquor on the other. At least two of the three cases attributed to hostile ufos by Steiger and Writenour (op.cit.) can be suspected of involving larger than normal quantities of drink, and since in every other respect they closely resemble cases known to have involved excessive quantities of liquor, there is no remaining reason why they should continue to remain in the general ufo field at all.

It is the present writer's contention that the three cases mentioned by Steiger and Writenour be henceforth removed from the ufo problem and relegated to the medical field where reasonable explanations for the cause of these terrifying events have for long been in existence.

Finally, the shocking death of Joao Prestes (iv) and the horrid injuries sustained by nine persons at Maracaibo, Venezuela, in 1886 (v), do not appear to be in the same category as the phenomenon of spontaneous human combustion, and do seem to have connections of one kind or another with unexplained aerial agencies. For the time being at least it is felt that these two latter events should be retained within the overall ufo field, even though it is not clear whether either or both constitutes evidence of ufo hostility.

References Cited.

- i) Awareness, March 1971, pp.1-5.
- ii) Awareness, December 1971, pp.3-4, 12.
- iii) Awareness, September 1972, pp.2-4.
- iv) Flying Saucer Review, vol.19, no:2, 1973, pp.14-17.
- v) Scientific American, Dec.18th., 1886, p.389.

MORE NEWS FROM YOUR FIELD AGENTS'

CO-ORDINATOR.

As many of you may already know, I have the task of co-ordinating and liaising with our many field investigators up and down the British Isles. With the natural passage of time, some field investigators retire, move to other areas (where they often continue in the same capacity on CONTACT (UK)'s behalf), or go abroad. Thus a continually changing pattern and distribution of field investigators is in fact one of life here at my headquarters in Kidlington. From time to time, such "adjustments" as I have just described lead to sudden or previously unforeseen shortages of investigators in particular areas. At present, although we have many investigators overall, shortages have recently come about in the areas covered by the counties of Bedfordshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Cornwall, Somerset,

Devon, Dorset, Suffolk and Norfolk, as well as the regions of Cumbria, northern Wales, large districts of Scotland and the western isles, and Eire. We do, of course, have a few agents still resident and operative in these places, but they are greatly overworked at present and urgently need the assistance of reinforcements, i.e., additional local field investigators to share their respective loads.

Ideally, we would like more agents in each of the major coastal towns, and on the Isle of Wight.

If you reside in any of the aforementioned areas, and would like to undertake investigations of ufo reports received from those areas, please write direct to me at the following address:

75 Norreys Road,
Cumnor, Nr.Oxford,
Oxfordshire.

Applicants will realize that they cannot be considered for field vacancies until they have been officially appointed, have received a special identity card, and satisfied the national committee that they are sufficiently responsible and qualified to carry out this important facet of ufo research. Interested persons should thus send me a full account of their educational, academic, or technical training (if any), together with leading personal details and any other information which they may feel pertinent to their application.

John Sears.

SOME INVESTIGATED UFO ACTIVITY OVER NORTHERN BRITAIN DURING
THE FIRST HALF OF 1975,

by
Jenny Randles.

Following on from my previous report (i), which described some of the salient points of the "flap" of ufo reports centred on the Oldham area of Lancashire, I wish here to relate some of the investigations carried out by groups in the Northern UFO Network (NUFON) during subsequent months. The time period under consideration here is January - June 1975.

After stating this as my starting premise, I cannot help but break it to insert details of a highly interesting case that occurred on November 24th., 1974, at approximately 4.10 pm. The group largely concerned in this investigation was RIGAP (Rossendale Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena).

The incident occurred at Haslingden, a semi-rural district twenty miles north of Greater Manchester. The story of what happened has been pieced together from the testimony of eight independent witnesses.

It would seem that at the time and date stated above, three objects --- variously described as tubular, cigar-shaped, and sausage-like --- passed over a new housing estate at an estimated altitude of 3000 feet (much lower than the occasional aircraft that do pass overhead here). The objects moved in an arc from SSE to WNW, and were in the sight of several of the witnesses for up to 15 minutes. At the time, the weather was dull. The objects, however, seemed to glow like burnished gold, as if reflecting the setting Sun. Several witnesses reported seeing a series of bright lights along the side of at least one of the objects.

There was a considerable gap between the objects (estimated at $\frac{3}{4}$ mile between the first two, and as something greater between the second and third objects). The average size of the objects was estimated at 80 feet (in length), but all

10.

observers agree that the final (third) object was at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ times larger than the first two. Interestingly, one witness said that the final object initially appeared as two smaller separate objects, which then seemed to merge to form a larger one having a fuzzy collar separating them at the point where they had apparently joined. Since this witness was furthest south along the route taken by these objects, it is possible that she was the only person to observe this aspect of the phenomenon, or, conversely, because of her greater distance, misinterpreted an aspect unnoticed by or actually invisible to other nearer witnesses.

All percipients reported the objects as being silent, although two witnesses, standing together, did report a faint humming noise. For what it is worth, there was also the testimony of a dog, allegedly very placid normally, which was highly disturbed during the period when these objects passed overhead.

Subsequent checks with local airports failed to reveal anything that might have caused these observations.

Three different versions of the Haslingden objects are depicted in Fig.1, a.

* * * * *

As recorded in my previous report, January was the month when a ufo "storm" hit the Oldham area. Ufo activity, however, was by no means confined to that area at the time, for right in the middle of the Oldham "flap" BUFORA (Staffordshire) investigated a most interesting possible landing near Leek. At 6.45 pm on January 9th., two sets of witnesses, on different roads, watched a brightly lit domed disc hover over nearby fields, and then settle down. Ten days later, on January 19th., the Northern Aerial Phenomena Research Association (NAPRA) handled a report from a small farm in Gwalchmai, Anglesey, N.Wales, where two frightened farmers' wives saw a large red fiery cartwheel-shaped object spin across the sky. It was in view for several minutes, and at times was so large it filled the window through which they were observing it. It emitted smoke from a point on its structure assumed to be its rear.

As the "flap" subsided, one more interesting case was recorded by the British Youth UFO Investigation Group, when a young but experienced astronomer informed them of a sighting he had made of an inverted white ellipsoidal object through his telescope on January 31st.

On February 20th., RIGAP were back in action at the scene of the previously mentioned November 24th (1974) sighting, for on that date two boys walking over the moors at Haslingden saw a silver cigar-shaped object with white lights at each end, fly low and silently over the hills. It came very close to the two witnesses, who saw that it was actually of very small size. A few moments later they were able to compare it with a light aircraft which, following a similar flight course, passed overhead. There were marked differences between the two "craft", the aircraft being audible.

March and April were months of little note, although the Wirral UFO Society (WUFOS) investigated a report of a yellow oval shape seen by several school children on March 7th. On the face of things, this object seemed to resemble a satellite but this could not be substantiated, and all attempts to find a natural explanation proved fruitless too.

During April, both the Manchester UFO Research Association (MUFORA) and RIGAP were plagued with reports from Rochdale, where many reputable witnesses observed fiery orange balls or orbs floating over the hills. Owing to their regularity of manifestation and time of appearance over a period of two weeks, a natural explanation was suspected. Investigation disclosed that these objects were hot-air

balloons manufactured and released by some unknown "fiend". Senseless acts of this type are not only time wasting and much to be deplored, but are also to be greatly despised.

After this frustrating experience, however, May brought two excellent cases which were investigated by MUFORA. Of these, the first occurred on May 13th., and possessed many of the attributes of the well known "cloud" cigar type reports from France. The report was made by three observers (though the wife of one of the male percipients viewed only a part of the phenomenon as she went indoors frightened by it), who wish to remain anonymous. They are referred to here as Mr."A" and Miss "B".

Mr "A" and his wife were, with their 16-years old daughter (Miss "B"), returning to their home at Royton, in Greater Manchester, at 10.50pm on the above date, when they saw a yellow crescent shaped object hanging in the western sky. Mr "A" was an army gunner and so had considerable experience observing targets of all kinds at a distance. This object he was able to view for twenty minutes, during which time it disappeared and reappeared several times (once in a horizontal rather than a vertical orientation). On one occasion five red pulses rippled along (up) its length. After a break, this was repeated. Just before it finally faded out of view, three silver balls, of small diameter, came up (apparently from the ground below it) and were absorbed into the main object. So far, no conclusive explanation has been found for this sighting. See Fig.1, b.

On May 31st., at 2.40 am., a security worker resident in Rochdale, but on that date having a night off, came down from his bedroom to make a cup of tea, only to see a big white light hovering over fields at the back of his garden. There were also several other smaller lights visible. He was able to take a polaroid picture of the main object. MUFORA and DIGAP (headquartered at Bury) are following up this remarkable episode, although as yet no conclusive evidence either way has been forthcoming. See Fig.1, c.

It should, perhaps, be noted that there is little at present here to indicate a ufo connection since the light just "switched off", and was never seen to be flying or having any potential for flight. It could, for example, have been an unusually powerful vehicle light which, despite the unsocial hour, happened to be in the field at that time. Nevertheless, the Manchester Evening News of June 4th., which reported the observation, headed the account "Saucers at the bottom of his garden".

To close this review, I refer to the most recent case under investigation. It dates from 9.30 pm on June 2nd., and involves several witnesses in Bootle, Merseyside, who reported to the British Youth UFO Investigation Group (BYUIG) that they had watched a black disc shaped object moving in a westerly direction at a speed somewhat slower than that of an average aeroplane. It is hoped to be able to submit further information on this sighting in due course.

* * * * *

I hope this review shows the value of inter-group communication such as, in this case NUFON, fosters. Through it it has been possible to rapidly build up a fairly complete picture of the ufo phenomena recorded during these months over the region concerned. The information has been "instantly" relayed to all participating groups by means of our monthly newsletter and, now, to an even wider audience via CONTACT (UK).

It is fervently hoped that this example will serve as an incentive to groups in other areas, both in Britain and abroad, to share their information and set up data exchange and relay networks. These already exist in some places, but they

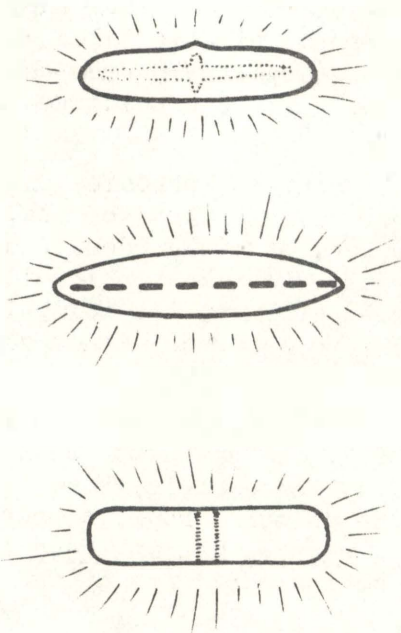
are relatively very uncommon, and many more need to be organized. Ufo investigation results are for the benefit of all. If they are simply filed away to gather dust in some folder, then really the very investigation of reports becomes a complete waste of time. So do let us disseminate all pertinent data as rapidly and widely as possible.

- (i) "The Oldham UFO "Flap" of January 1975", Awareness, vol.4, no:2, Summer 1975, pp.4-7.

FIG. 1.

a

Three independent views of the Haslingden objects: Nov.24th., 1974.



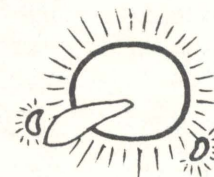
b

The Royton "crescent" in its vertical phase, absorbing the silver spheres: May 13th., 1975.



c

The main object seen and photographed at Rochdale: May 31st., 1975.



IMPORTANT NOTICE.

This notice confirms that CONTACT (UK)'s Annual General Meeting will be held from 2.30pm to 10.0pm on Saturday, December 6th., 1975, in the Tudor Room, Caxton Hall, London, as stated in Awareness, vol.4, no:2, Summer 1975, p.18, and that at least two lectures will be given during the period following the A.G.M. The speakers engaged to date are Professor John Taylor, of "Black Holes" and "Super-minds" fame, and the Hon.Brinsley Le Poer Trench, who needs no introduction at all to ufologists. There will also be an exhibition, as last year, and recently published books on ufos or related topics will again be available for purchase.

It must again be stressed that admission to the Annual General Meeting will only be by production of a valid membership card. If you have lost or misplaced your present card, apply quickly for a replacement to your membership secretary, Mr Derek Mansell, at 75 Norreys Road, Cumnor, Nr.Oxford, Oxon.

The Secretary.

BOOK NEWS AND BOOK REVIEWS

by

Lionel Beer, Brinsley Le Poer Trench, and J.B.Delair.

UFOs: NAZI SECRET WEAPONS? is the title of a fascinating new, and controversial, book by Friedrich Mattern.

If the Nazi propaganda and white-washing of Hitler in this be ignored, then the reader will find the rest of the material presented by Mattern truly absorbing. From the evidence submitted, it would seem that the Nazis had developed flying saucers by the end of the war, together with a host of other lethal weapons. Mattern suggests that, if they had been developed sooner --- even a few months earlier --- then the war would have taken a different course.

Apparently, the Nazis sent a highly secret expedition to Antarctica in the 1930's. They discovered near-tropical, ice-free islands and holes, some 300 miles wide, in the icy wastes of that continent. Over 400,000 square miles of Antarctica were claimed by that Nazi expeditionary force --- an area larger than all of Germany.

Did a huge convoy of the latest, most sophisticated, German submarines having a range of 15,000 miles leave Norway in 1945 ? Did a Nazi submarine flotilla, using incredible new, secret, weapons totally destroy an allied attacking force? Were Hitler and Eva Braun on board? The author produces startling evidence that neither Hitler nor Eva Braun died in that Berlin bunker. When did the Allies discover that Hitler and the Reich's top inventors had got away? Was Admiral Byrd sent, with 40 ships and 4,000 troops, to Antarctica in 1947 to try and capture this last contingent of Nazi forces? Why did Byrd's expedition leave Antarctica without the mission accomplished?

Mattern asks if the Nazis went inside a hollow earth by way of Antarctica. It is known that Hitler and many top Nazis were members of the Society of Thule, and believed in a hollow earth. Did Admiral Byrd's aircraft meet a devastating fire power?

The foregoing questions, and many more equally provocative, are asked in this thought-provoking and highly stimulating book. Reinforced by numerous official documents and references, and as many remarkable photographs, several hitherto unknown, of secret and experimental Nazi weaponry and aircraft, together with rare photographs of "foo fighters" taken by German photographers, this astonishing book poses a very large number of unanswered questions and deserves to be read by everyone interested in ufos. As yet it is only available from the Canadian publishers, Samisdat Publishers Ltd., 206 Carlton Street, Toronto, Canada, price \$4.95 Canadian.

B. LeP. T.A PROCESSION OF THE DAMNED.

Well that's what a heading on the leaflet says about Robert Rickard's excellent magazine "THE NEWS". This publication is part of an effort to restore a balanced view of the phenomenal cosmos --- countering pompous certitude with well-aimed raspberries (followed by equally well-aimed clotted cream, no doubt?). As a passive follower of Charles Fort's brand of curious phenomena and as a collector of cuttings, I was delighted when Robert Rickard started publishing Britain's only real Fortean magazine in November 1973. "The News" has now reached its tenth issue, with anecdotes and case histories packed into its 24 pages. Issue no:9 has a look at vanishing dogs, fish, farm animals, children, and numerous adults, including former M.P. Victor Grayson, who disappeared in 1924. Ghost Lights and the Surrey Puma are also dealt with.

Mr Rickard is bound to have covered your personal fascination in one of the issues he has produced to date, be it animal antics, curiosities of nature, ESP, cyclops, sky-falls, insect swarms, Atlantis, ghosts, wolf-children, curses, comets, fireballs, lunar lights, mysterious fires, Uri Geller, the pyramids, ufos, all permutations of human curiosity, Magonia, or mirages. If I carried on further there would probably be cases of spontaneous combustion, such as are discussed elsewhere in this issue of "Awareness". When you become familiar with Fortean, the unusual, such as a shower of frogs, tends to become commonplace, although not necessarily readily explainable.

While querying the relevance of all material featured in "The News", I feel that this illustrated, closely typed, and lithoed magazine deserves wider support from all those who can best derive value from its contents. Ufologists are among that contingent. Full details of "The News" are obtainable from this reviewer who advertises at the end of this magazine.

L.B.

UFOs: INTERPLANETARY VISITORS.

The title of this first-class contribution to the ufo literature would, at first sight, seem to indicate that here we have a dogmatic approach to this notoriously difficult problem and that, as such, it must be worthless. This reviewer suspects that this positive title has been invented to promote sales, for the author, Raymond E. Fowler, stands out as one of the most unbiased and objective researchers in the ufo field today. And that is the way it comes through when one reads page after page of fascinating text.

This is a large book, 365 pages in length, each page bearing a remarkable wealth of interesting material, a great deal of it never previously published, centred on the author's home territory of the New England states of the USA. Literally hundreds of extremely well researched ufo episodes litter these pages, and these are given in a factual nonsensational style that is highly commendable. Numerous drawings of ufos are given, together with distribution maps and diagrams. Curiously the book contains only 4 photographs, of which all have appeared previously elsewhere. This, however, in no way detracts from a near masterpiece, itself further enhanced by a long appendix devoted to chronologically arranged ufo sightings discussed in the main portion of the book, and by an excellent index. So many interesting new cases are published in UFOs: INTERPLANETARY VISITORS that it would be unfair here to single out any one for special attention, but the value and importance of these as a whole may be readily assessed when one relates them to the occasional well known sightings such as those made at and around Exeter in 1965, and to the astonishing series of gigantic power failures and black-outs that swept large areas of the USA and other countries in 1965-6.

Few researchers know that the power station at Salem, Massachusetts, the scene of a famous ufo photograph snapped by Shell Alpert on July 16th., 1952, has been repeatedly revisited by ufos, some of vast size and at low altitudes, since that memorable day. Fowler's book documents these later visitations. Here, it seems, is a classic "repeater" case. Many instances of electromagnetic effects, of animal reaction, of hitherto unpublished landings and low level ufo flights, car chases, and other well established ufo behavioural patterns, are detailed in this book, which, from every point of view, is a very valuable addition to the ever growing ufo literature. This reviewer cannot recommend it strongly enough, and hopes that every serious ufo researcher will contrive to find the money, \$8.50c, or the sterling equivalent, to acquire their own copy. Published by the Exposition Press, Jericho, New York, copies of this volume may be obtained via Susanne Stebbing who advertises at the end of this magazine.

JBD.

13

UFOS AND SPACE AGE PUBLICATIONS.

Comprehensive stocks of books and magazines devoted to ufos and related subjects always in stock. Examples include:

WEIRD UNSOLVED MYSTERIES, by Eric Norman. 60p.

MINDS THROUGH TIME AND SPACE, by Brad Steiger. 60p.

SUPERNATURE: Natural History of the Supernatural, by Lyall Watson. £3.60p.; paperback 65p.

THE LINK, by Matthew Manning. Extra-ordinary gifts by a teenage psychic, including metal bending, diagnosis, etc. Contains an introduction by Peter Bander. £3.80p.

UFOS: THE WHOLE STORY, by Jim and Coral Lorenzen. 60p.

SUPERMINDS: Scientific Analysis of the Paranormal, by John Taylor. Suitable for scientists and the general reader. Approximately £4.00p.

BLACK HOLES; End of the Universe?, by John Taylor. £2.80p.; paperback 65p.

PSYCHIC MAGAZINE, edited by Dr Edgar Mitchell of Apollo 14 fame. Illustrated Uri Geller issue, 60p.

LIFE AMONG THE STARS, by V.A. Firsoff. Man and the Universe in the age of transition. £2.55p.

BEYOND EARTH: Man's Contact With UFOs, by Ralph and Judy Blum. 65p.

THE MEN IN BLACK REPORT, by Kurt Glemser. 65p.

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DRAMATIC PROPHECIES OF THE GREAT PYRAMID, by Rudolfo Benavides. £3.40p.

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SECRET OF THE AGES, by Brinsley Le Poer Trench. 8 plates, 190 pages. £2.80p.

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B U F O R A N E W S issued by Lionel Beer on behalf of:-

BRITISH UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (BUFORA).

BUFORA JOURNAL. The journal is now published bi-monthly, and the layout has been restyled under the editorship of Richard Beet, FRAS, AFBIS, MAIE (Dip.).
 For economic reasons it is not practical to exchange with every UFO magazine.
 Editorial material and regular exchange magazines should be sent to Richard Beet, 316 Pinewood Park, Cove, Farnborough, Hampshire.

LIAISON OFFICERS. Bufora was founded in 1962 by one Scottish and seven English UFO societies. Sometimes the voluntary nature of BUFORA has been misunderstood and in order to further its policy of co-operation with autonomous UFO groups in the U.K. with similar aims, two regional liaison officers have been appointed. They are: (South) Alan Fossey, 21 Laitwood Road, London, SW12 9QN; and (North) Jeff Porter, 2 Kingsley Avenue, Whitefield, Manchester, M25 6HA.

MIDLANDS CONFERENCE. The first full two-day conference was highly successful. Speakers at the Grand Hotel, Hanley, on May 10th., included Dr John Taylor of King's College, London; Dr.Joachim Kuettnr of the World Meteorological Organisation, Geneva; and Leonard Cramp, well known author. Research projects were examined, and a number of people volunteered their services. Conference proceedings will be published in due course, and special thanks go to the Staffordshire branch.

LONDON LECTURES. Last season's lectures attracted audiences averaging over 100 to the well-appointed lecture theatre in Kensington, and they continued to provide an open forum for the exchange of information and ideas. The 1975-76 season starts on September 6th., and programme cards are available on receipt of an S.A.E. Temporary membership, including admission, will be about 40p.

DETAILS OF BUFORA. These will gladly be sent on receipt of a 9" x 4½" S.A.E. by the Hon.Secretary, Miss Betty Wood, 6 Cairn Avenue, London, W5.